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NO. 7935 P. 4

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/573,233

Applicant: GRIES, et al.

Filed: September 22, 2003

TC/AU: N/A

Examiner: N/A

Docket No.: 251323 (Client Reference No. GSGN03071)

Customer No.: 23460

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

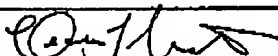
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

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